

Reflection Paper

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I would like to express my special gratitude to those people who have involved in the meaningful programs for their inviting, allowing and sharing me new knowledge, experiences and skills through the **Mutual Exchange of Young Scholars in Integrated Area Studies by Using Field Station** that organized by Graduate School of Asian and Africa Area Studies (ASAFAS) and Global Center of Excellence (GCOE) program “Toward Sustainable Humanosphere”, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS),



Kyoto University, Japan from March 1-14, 2009. I really enjoyed and was very happy under this program. (Photo: Saychai with Japanese Girls, Near Kiyomizu Temple, 28/2/09)

To understand and to reflect on the program, I would like to express my sharing and discussion with you as an organizers through some mainly reflections that have inspired me, these include learning from research presentation on country studies, field station, excursion, GCOE international symposium and extra activities in Japan from February 27 to March 12, 2009. Moreover, I also share you some of my reactions or reflections with each activity that you may see it in the end of each paragraph. The final paragraph of my paper will share you some of my interested activities in further cooperating between Faculty of social Sciences, National University of Laos, Lao PDR and GCOE, CSEAS, ASAFAS, Kyoto University, Japan.

Firstly activity is new learning from workshop on New Paradigm for Human Beings and Nature: Frontier of Asian Area Studies” which hosted on March 3, 2009 at GCOE Program, CSEAS, Kyoto University. It gave me a good opportunity to understand and also to know new perspective from the Global Center of Excellence Program “Toward Sustainable Humanosphere” which developed by CSEAS, ASAFAS and MEXT (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) “Human-Nature Coexistence in a Globalizing World” (2002, in tandem with ASAFAS, designated as a MEXT 21st Century

COE Program. In this context, sphere has driven by geosphere, biosphere and humanosphere. To find out activities to relate with sphere, we had a good chance to listen from many young researchers who conducted their researches and worked in several fields/issues such as economical, forestry, agricultural, social, political, environmental, tourism and developmental issues. From this sense; I do believe that sustainable society should be accumulated in several aspects like economic, social, cultural, ecological, and political aspects but the most important thing is that people are the center of development. Good developmental paradigm should not create any hazardous effect on the people, animals and natural resources. Real social development can never bring to this world if people are unsafe and will die because of a killer, war, road accident, and other dangerous crashes without acceptable reasons. Moreover, safety, wellbeing and happiness for all are the best goal and a new way for the sustainable humanosphere that people want to see in their lives.

Secondly, I had very good chances to listen and also shared many lessons on field stations on March 4, 2009 at G-COE program that were shared by other scholars who came from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos and Myanmar. It was good opportunities to guide other scholars know about Laos Field Station and I do hope the GCOE program will continue to support our field station that just started as initiative activities in Laos.

Another insight learning is from the excursion from March 5-7, 2009 where I had chances to expose and experience on how Japanese people live in society (relationship, traditional, dressing, food, drink, way of life, etc) and with natural resources (like lake, water, forestry, land, fishes, animals and other diversities). These places included the Hozu River, Miyama Village, Lake Biwa Environmental Research Institute, Lake Biwa Museum, and Moriyama Fishermen's Cooperative. From this exposure, I could see the wonderful field stations in relating to sustainable development-humanosphere especially the well-being among Japanese people in generally are interconnected with society, economic, ecological and natural resources as a whole. I could learn many things from these excursions but the most important thing is that I really like tree planting around mountains which made me to understand more ecological systems and also a good quality of life of Japanese people. These phenomena, I never found before and these will be useful and insight lessons that can apply to our communities in the future. Furthermore, I could see the cooperative networking between ASAFAS, Kyoto University and local communities in Japan but how can you help to extend/ distribute these activities to our country?

From the Second International Symposium Conferences of Kyoto University Global COE Program that organized on March 9-11, 2009 at Kyoto University, it made me go deeper to understand more scientific and local perspectives in looking on geosphere, biosphere and humanosphere. In particularly, it brought me many activities under several areas like biosphere parameters in actions and norms, learning from the dynamic of geosphere and

biosphere, biofuel as a global force of change, and also rehabilitating biosphere perspective in the modern world. To me! in relating to sustainable humansphere, I do believe that we should not only deal on geosphere (earth, water, wind, fire, etc) and biosphere (animals, trees and other diversities) activities that use natural sciences to understand these phenomena but we as researchers, policy makers or implementers should deal more on humansphere (human being) activities because human is caused and also affected of social and natural problems. Thus, to study more on social sciences perspectives like sociology, psychology, anthropology, history, political science, economy, social work and welfare, and other human affairs may help us to be able to understand deeper the reality of sustainable development-humansphere.

In addition, during my trip in Japan, I am not only learning from the workshops/ conferences or programs but I had chances to visit several places in Kyoto city such as the Golden Pavilion Rokuon-Ji temple, Kiyomizu temple, shopping and went around the city where I found that Kyoto city is the wonderful, safe, clean, and beautiful places. People are very kind, active, honest, respectful and the thing is very high quality, but every thing is very high price if I compare to other countries.

For further project cooperation, I do believe that the Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Laos, Lao PDR and GCOE, CSEAS, ASAFAS, Kyoto University, Japan may be able to extend further project cooperation through many activities like Higher Educational Curricula development on Social Sciences (Developmental Studies, Sustainable Society, Socio-ecological Studies); MA or Ph.D Upgrading to Kyoto University, Japan; Continue Field Station to Laos and Japan; Field Research; Exchange Program; Visiting Professors and Students, Attending the Conferences/ Workshops or Seminars, and Opening Center for Lao Studies.

Through transformative practices, those insight earning, lessons, knowledge and skills that I have gotten from the exchange program are not only kept in my mind but those lessons will be shared, taught and practiced to my colleagues, students, family members and people in my country soon.

Thank you very much for giving me a chance to Kyoto University!